

Better Libraries for the Better Life  
- Frederic J. Glazer

Reading is a Basic Tool in the Living  
of a Good Life - Mortimer Adler

## **GEORGE PLIMPTON, SPEAKER LIBRARY APPRECIATION DINNER**

**February 23, 1978**

The writer who invented the idea of Participant Journalism, and was made famous in his book *Paper Lion*, has accepted the invitation to be the chief speaker at the Library Appreciation Dinner scheduled for Thursday, February 23.

George Plimpton first achieved fame as editor of *Paris Review* in 1953. During this same period, he edited four volumes of interviews, *Writers At Work*. In the 60's, Plimpton became a staff writer for *Sports Illustrated* magazine and developed techniques for increasing his readers' understanding of the sporting world as seen from the inside.

A host of books followed these early publications: *Out of My League*, *The Bogey Man*, *Mad Ducks and Bears* and *One More July* (a football dialogue with Bill Curry).

*Shadow Box*, the author's latest production, proves that he is a very adroit interviewer. The book is much more than his experience in fighting Archie Moore. It is actually a commentary on the whole world of professional boxing. Figuring most prominently is Cassius Clay, who is the protagonist

of many sketches, but also featured are "literary greats" such as novelists Ernest Hemingway and Norman Mailer, and the poet Marianne Moore.

The Plimpton Dinner is to be held in the new convention center at the Charleston House.

## **FEBRUARY SECOND CAST IN A NEW ROLE**

The Library Commission has scheduled hearings with both the House and Senate Finance Committees on February 2. During these discussions of proposals for assisting public libraries, legislators will have the chance to question the merit of the requests, and explore the needs for assistance from the State.

Traditionally, February 2 in our country has been dubbed "Groundhog Day," and the folk belief is that if the groundhog sees his shadow, he returns to his burrow and another six weeks of winter ensues. In England and Scotland, it was also used to foretell the weather.

The climate which the Commission encounters in the hearing rooms will foretell, to a great extent, the kind of reception which public library assistance will get in this year's legislature. To add strength to the proposals, six library leaders will be "telling it like it is" in order to make clear the real needs behind the dollar requests.

Testifiers include three library trustees: Ellen Wilkerson of Hamlin, Gary Ellis of Clendenin and David Chadwick of New Martinsville. Representing the library staff point of view are: Dan Reasor of Welch, Anthony Ziegler of Huntington, and Richard Harding of Franklin in far-away Pendleton County.

The Library Commission has requested \$3,920,000 for Construction, \$5,628,368 for Grants-In Aid and \$131,660 for Books and Periodicals for the Agency.

## **FIFTH ANNUAL LIBRARY APPRECIATION DAY**

Though February 5th has been selected as the preferred date for Library Appreciation Day, public libraries are free to select any day in the month of February on which to honor their local Legislator. This year, each Senator or House of Delegates member will receive one of the new Library Pins in the well-known design of a sunburst of books. Special presentations of pins will be made to Legislators at the Capitol, if they do not plan to be at home on February 5.

The "seed" money and the sale of these pins is sponsored by the West Virginia Library Association.

## WVLC NEWSLETTER

### BIG ORANGE READING MACHINE LOOKS FORWARD TO SPRING

Dressed in a springtly new orange coat and a beguiling side-wise lettering designed by Carol Bryan, the Commission's new exhibit trailer has hit a snag. You guessed it -- the weather!

The present use of the trailer is to exhibit new books with the intent of bringing large numbers of them to small-town librarians. Contact Frances Jones or Charles Hayth at the Commission if you want an early booking for the Spring exhibit, and would like for your library to serve as host.

### OUTPOST LIBRARIES ZOOM ACROSS THE LANDSCAPE

Quite literally, the portable buildings which you squeezed past on a bend in some West Virginia country road might have been one of the new Outpost Libraries. Nine were delivered in a few short weeks, with a triple-header opening on September 22. Governor Rockefeller dropped into Hardy County by helicopter to dedicate an Outpost at Baker at 10:00 a.m. This was followed by a similar opening at Valley Head in Randolph County, and at 5:00 p.m. the final ceremony at Alderson which straddles Greenbrier and Monroe Counties.

The logic behind the mad rush for portable buildings was the approaching winter, which makes foundation construction impractical and the several thousand patrons left stranded without library service since last February when the Book Express trailer service expired with the freeze. Though the Outpost capacity rivals

the Instant Library in book capacity; it can hold 5,000 volumes in contrast to the octagon's 8,000; it is far more economical to finance, requiring about a third of the outlay for an Instant shell. Energy costs for heating and cooling are lowered through omission of windows, snug roof design and heavy insulation.

Six more Outposts have been delivered and are on foundation at Huttonsville, Rupert, and Hillsboro. Librarians who worked like troopers to stock these units, find and train the staff and get them into operation deserve a pat on the back: these include Marjorie Zirk of Moorefield, Kathleen Weber of Stonewall Jackson and Donna Bussler and William Davis of the Book Express Office in Charleston.

Another chapter in the Outpost Story has been written in McDowell by an energetic new librarian, Dan Reasor, who arrived in September and opened three units in November. Two outposts there were the answer to disaster - the spring flood had destroyed a trailer which the Woman's Club of **laeger** had purchased for a library, and fire wiped out the building housing the **Davy** Library. The third unit at **Northfork** replaces a bookmobile stop.

Currently awaiting balmier weather for foundation construction are units for Marlowe and Inwood in Berkeley County, repalcements for an ancient truck and trailer.

The real story behind the Outpost Libraries would be incomplete without mentioning the hard driving team of Dave Childers, Chuck Hively and the staff from Poloron Homes of Middleburg, Pennsylvania, led by Sherman M. Vandevender. Charles Hively is the architect from Wilson & Goff who sold the idea of modular

building on a foundation as more suitable than a trailer. He and Dave Childers inspect all sites for feasibility and, once the site is selected, guide the local committees and boards through the intricate and perilous paths of preparing for the arrival of the module.

Without the stalwart leadership of local committee members who secure the site, assist in its preparation and raise the funds locally to pay for the foundations (average cost about \$2,400) of the Outpost Library, these new libraries could not spring up so rapidly. Volunteers who type book cards and bake cookies are unsung heroines.

To make the story complete, we must admit that the most important ingredient has yet to be mentioned - namely, books. Because these libraries happened in a hurry, the book collections found in them are far from perfect, but the Library Commission has a cure for that: where a library is just starting, they have authorized grants of up to \$5,000 for basic collections for each Outpost. Suggestions from laymen are always welcome, so now is the time if you're an advisor or use of one of these libraries to call up Marian the Librarian - and say "Why don't you buy this book I just heard about on TV."

### CONFERENCE ON LIBRARY SERVICE FOR THE ELDERLY

**December 5, 1977**

Due to interest voiced at the "Government to the People" conferences, the Library Commission sponsored a one-day meeting to highlight the problems and the needs of Service to the Elderly.

## WVLC NEWSLETTER

Eighty librarians attended the conclave. Using the theme "The Good Old Days", the participants were encouraged to display items from earlier periods that older persons would be interested in viewing - e.g. a restored Model T Ford was displayed in the conference area in the Book Express Office to show the excitement that old-time restorations can stir.

Preceding the Conference, and in-depth study was made on "Public Library Service for Senior Citizens in West Virginia" by Monty Baker of the Book Express Office. The findings revealed that in Doddridge, Monroe, Greenbrier, Ohio, Pocahontas, Tyler and Ritchie Counties, the elderly (persons over 65) comprise one-fifth or more of the total population of the county. A high percentage of this group lacks access to a car. In 26 counties, a high percentage of senior citizens do not have access to a phone. Experimentation with new ways of getting older folks to the libraries or mailing books to their homes seems definitely in order.

The Conference featured two films -- opening with the "Art of Age", a 20-minute sketch about four senior citizens who have made successful transitions to retirement (this film is owned by the WVLC) and closing with "Perspective", a film describing the services and history of AARP (American Association of Retired Persons).

Outlining the "Role of Government" Jim Elmore represented Commission on Aging, explainign the operation of the Retired Persons Act; Ronald Nestor and Susan Beard explained the role of the Welfare Department.

Four librarians discussed programs presently in operation with Seniors: Richard Harding employs two volunteers past seventy in his Pendleton

County Library, and presents programs in nursing homes and senior centers; Russell Foster suggested many innovations, including a talent bank of elderly skills in the card catalog. He reported that a group of thirty seniors lunch daily at the Roane County Library under a government-financed nutrition project; Laura Johnson spends lots of time chatting with older readers who she supplies with books in the nursing homes of Raleigh County, and Barry Geesey, representing the Kanawha County Library, related his experiences with the Service for the Homebound in Charleston. This is the full-time delivery to shut-ins at home operating from a county library.

### FILM SERVICES WORKSHOP

The Film Services Section, having provided films to public libraries for a year, saw the need to host a film programming workshop for librarians from across the state. This seminar was held on Tuesday, December 6, in the south briefing room of the Science and Cultural Center.

That previous evening, a parlor of the Daniel Boone Hotel was converted into a theatre for those librarians staying overnight as a madcap-night-cap of films was shown to gain input into types of films desired in the collection.

Speaker for the workshop was Dr. Peter Schillaci, Marketing Director for Macmillan Films, who emphasized innovative film programming ideas to meet a particular community's needs.

The afternoon session included discussion on such topics as public relations and promotions, future film purchases, insuring film returns, substitutions, and film program requests.

### FOUR NEW BUILDINGS NEAR COMPLETION

As **Stonewall Jackson Regional Library** staff moves into its new building in the spring, the problem of operating from homes will at last be resolved. Since the razing of their building in September, the entire staff has been without an office. The County Court of Upshur County has built this \$70,000 structure with EDA (Economic Development Act) funds on the outskirts of Buckhannon.

Two buildings valued at half million are in the completion stages with most equipment on order. **Dunbar Library Commission** has constructed a spacious facility on urban renewal property. This library will become a branch of Kanawha County Public Library. **Mason County** is more than two-thirds completed, and expects to open its facility in Point Pleasant in the Spring.

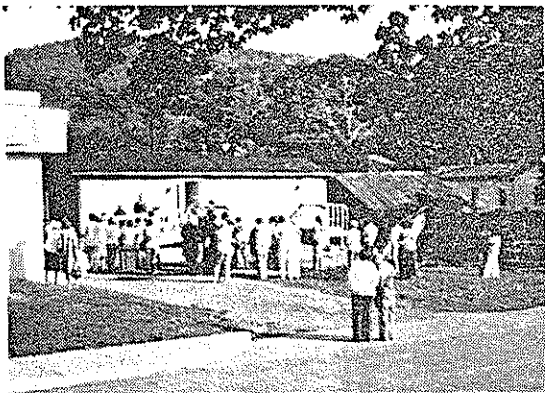
**Richwood** encountered some problems as their contractor drilling for the foundation uncovered sawdust to a depth of twenty feet. Problems resolved pretty rapidly once the foundation was redesigned and the sawdust replaced by soil. Equipment is ordered, and on its arrival, this Nicholas County facility will be ready for use. Total cost will be \$360,000.

### MIDWINTER ACTIVITY

The bids on the three-million-dollar **Cabell County** main Library in Huntington came well within the budget allotted. This plan includes the first-time use by a library in the entire nation of solar energy - to assist with air conditioning and heating.

**Fayette County Library** announces the awarding of bids for the

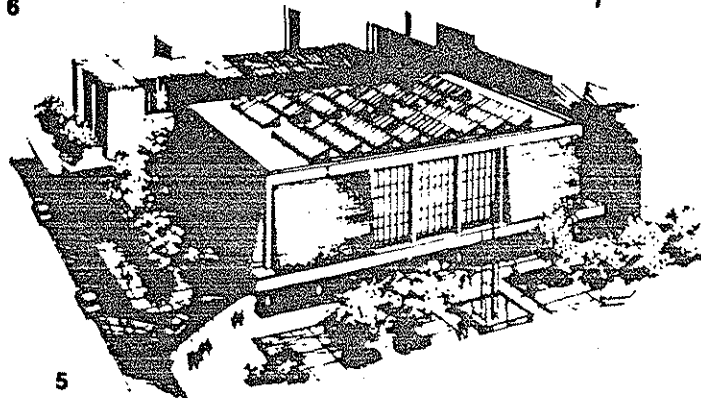
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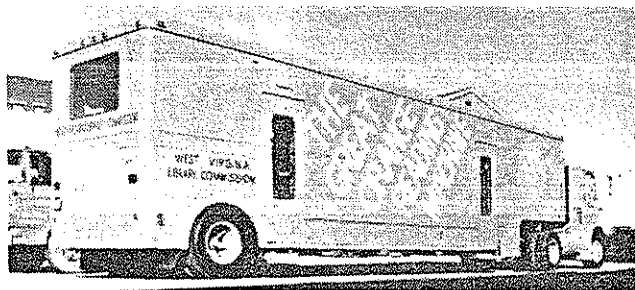
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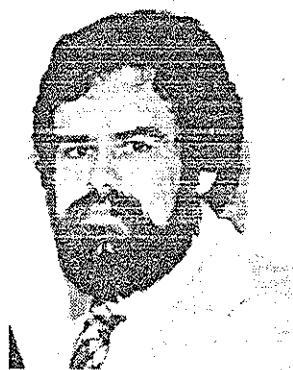
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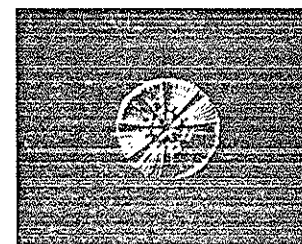
1) Soon to open is the Dunbar Branch of the Kanawha County Public Library. 2) Clarence Coffindaffer is new Director of the Raleigh County Public Library and Regional Service Center. 3) Library Appreciation Days are being held to honor legislators in libraries throughout West Virginia this month. 4) WVLC's latest deal on wheels is "The Great Orange Reading Machine," filled with preview book collections and ready to make library visits statewide as soon as the "snow-go" situation improves. 5) Architect's rendering of the new Cabell County facility, which will have the distinction of being the first solar-cooled library in the nation. 6) Now receiving international attention...the energy-saving, innovative Outpost Library. 7) A scene from the well attended back-to-back WVLC workshops focusing on Elderly Services for the first day and on Films for the second day. 8) E. Frances Jones, Chief Field Consultant for WVLC, received the Dora Ruth Parks Award at the WVLA Conference for Outstanding Service to libraries in West Virginia. 9) Fearless celebrity George Plimpton, guest speaker at the Library Pin Pal Dinner in Charleston, February 23rd. 10) The pin it takes to become a "Library Pin Pal" and join thousands of West Virginians who are helping to promote the cause of better libraries for the better life.



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## FACES & PLACES

TO FILL  
SOME  
SPACES

## WVLC NEWSLETTER

construction of an annex to be located behind the Herbert E. Jones Memorial Library in Oak Hill. This will house the bookmobile, books-by-mail program and technical services programs. Cost of the building, designed by Donald W. Stark & Associates, is \$128,000. Construction will be handled by the New River Building Company.

**Hamlin Public Library** just barely made its starting deadline when it awarded the bid for construction of an annex to the S & G Construction Company of Elkview. The shovel went into the ground on December 22. This deadline was unique, since the Economic Development Administration had awarded \$35,000 toward the building, and under its rules construction must start within seventy days to swing into action after approval of the application.

**Hardy County Library** reports through Margaret Allen that they have raised \$30,000 of the \$50,000 needed in local funds and, God willing, they will be seeking bids for their new library in early January.

### PROGRESS WITH THE INSTANT LIBRARIES

The officials of **Williamstown** in Wood County had originally sought a Bi-Centennial grant to finance their share of an Instant Shell. The funding was so slow materializing that eighteen months later the library finally opened its doors on Monday, December 19, arriving as sort of a Christmas present. It will be operated as a branch of the Wood County Library at Parkersburg. This unit replaced service from an old bookmobile.

Two shells were dedicated in the Eastern Panhandle area in October. Early in the month Mayor Shirley Gross cut the ribbon at **Paw Paw**. Reflecting on the rapidity with which the library had developed there since 1971, she gave credit to Mrs. Luella Bohrer and Mrs. Anna Shewbridge for pioneering and persevering in the early days of development. Board members of this library include: Patrick McTavish, President, J. M. Kline; James MacDonald, Shirley Gross and Betty Weaver.

The twin cities of **Harper's Ferry** and **Bolivar** have jointly organized a public library. Dedication was held on October 15 with Campbell Beall making the address. Two hundred fifty library cards were issued prior to the opening, indicating that there is a genuine desire for library service.

### TRANSITION

The changing scene in public libraries finds new faces in directorships of three county libraries: In September, Jo Anderson (who had organized **Fayette County Library** in 1959) retired, and moved to Venice, Florida, to live near her son. She is succeeded by Jane Barron, who had been serving as Extension Librarian. As **McDowell County Library** qualified to receive State Aid, Daniel Reasor was hired as the first professional librarian to serve the Welch facility. Dan is a native of Louisville, and an August graduate of the library school at the University of Kentucky. He served several years with the Peace Corps in Africa. In December, Mary Louise Graham (who had managed the **Raleigh County Library** since 1950) announced her retirement following an outstanding record in developing a public library. Filling the

vacancy at Beckley is Clarence L. Coffindaffer, who resigned as librarian at Alderson Broaddus College.

Most recently employed at **Keyser-Mineral County Library** in the Potomac Valley is Andrea Hutchins, recent graduate of the University of Maryland Library School. She will fill a combination position of children's services and reference services librarian. Dwan Huckabee has been appointed as Coordinator of Junior Services at **Cabell County Public Library** to replace Carol Green who is now at the Marshall University Library. Dwan comes to Huntington from Louisville Free Public Library, where she was Children's Librarian at Elm Branch. The new head of Technical Services and Children's Services at **Moundsville** in the Miracle Valley Region is Louis Horacek. A graduate of the library school at the University of Illinois, Mr. Horacek is also a folk music devotee.

Resignations in three Instant Libraries triggered changes. When Suzanne Ward resigned at **Craigsville**, her assistant Sonja Dalton was appointed librarian. As Janice McClung moved from **Rainelle** to Lewisburg to head the Greenbrier County Library, her assistant Danny McMillion took over the reins in the lumber city. In **Chapmanville**, a growing town in Logan County, Camille Talbert resigned to return to her hometown, Newark, New Jersey, where she will head the Children's Room at the Newark Library. Her replacement is Judith Ann Browning.

A welcome is extended to librarians in the new Outpost Libraries: June Akers in **Alderson**; Marjorie Osborne at **Rupert**; Mary Cook at **Hillsboro**; Karen Camden at **laeger**, Charlene Mounts at **Davy**, and Darlene Fuller at **Northfork**.

West Virginia Library Commission  
Science and Cultural Center  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

A salute goes to **Sue Alexander** of Barboursville whose sudden announcement of her retirement after 33 years brought out a banner crowd of friends and admirers. A buffet dinner was staged in her honor at the Gateway Inn near Barboursville. The program was studded with testimonials revealing Mrs. Alexander's creative library service for her community.

**In Memoriam:** Earl Rich died at Pottsville, Pennsylvania on January 4, 1978. In his service as Chairman of the West Virginia Library Commission for more than twenty years, Mr. Rich exhibited a great deal of patience and concern for the cause of public libraries in West Virginia. His tenure filled the long period of library demonstrations starting in 1949 and lasting until 1969 when cash grants for public libraries and assistance for construction became a reality.

### TRUSTEES AT THE GREENBRIER

Sixty-five library trustees were in attendance at the West Virginia Library Association Annual Convention in White Sulphur Springs. Representing thirty-six library boards, they bombarded Campbell Beall and Sam Harshbarger with questions about management and law on Friday afternoon, and interest continued on Saturday morning with Lewis McManus, who discussed the Retirement System. Mrs. Martha Trocin presided during the two sessions.

Resigning from Chairmanship of Trustee Section, Sam Harshbarger expressed his regrets, but indicated that he found it difficult to get to the Executive Board meetings of the Association.

New officers for next year are Forest J. Bowman of Kanawha County Library Board - Chairman, and Ellen Wilkerson of Hamlin Public Library - Secretary.

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